

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed February 23, 2005. Reconsideration of this application in view of the below remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1-23 are pending in the application with Claims 1 and 18 being in independent form. As of the present Amendment, Claims 1, 9, 10, 14-16, 18 and 22 are amended; no new matter is believed to have been introduced by the present Amendment.

I. Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-12, 14-19 and 21-23 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-12, 14-19 and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) for allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,643,650 issued to Slaughter et al. (hereinafter "Slaughter et al."). Claims 1, 9, 10, 14-16, 18 and 22 have been amended in a manner believed to obviate the rejection.

Slaughter et al. teaches a mechanism for using messages to search for documents stored in spaces in a distributed computing environment. A distributed computing environment consists of a plurality of processors (e.g., computers) networked together. These networked processors share processing cycles thus increasing the total processing power available for a given task.

Examples of distributed computing environments are SETI@Home, run by University of California at Berkeley, currently located at [<http://setiathome.berkeley.edu/>] and Folding@Home, run by Stanford University, currently located at [<http://folding.stanford.edu/>]. In both cases, each participant donates the idle processor cycles of a computer to the project, thus in essence creating a network have the processing power of a super computer. These examples are focused on a single task – analyzing radio signals received from the SETI Project and analyzing how proteins fold, respectively – however, distributed computing environments, ideally, can perform a plurality of tasks at one time, ranging from mundane office productivity to exotic scientific

analysis and modeling, and limited only by the number of processors (and processor cycles) available.

Based on the above description of the teachings of Slaughter et al., a clear difference between Applicants' invention as disclosed and claimed in the present application and the teachings of Slaughter et al. is that the claimed invention uses a Universal Description, Discovery and Integration (UDDI) server, i.e. a server directed to providing UDDI functionality, for providing a user with a searchable directory containing information about business services offered by registered businesses (service providers). For example a cardiologist may offer free web-based screenings for patients with heart conditions (see Applicants' paragraph 0036-0037).

The present invention as recited in claims 1 and 18 does not make use of distributed computing environments for its functionality, however the teachings of Slaughter et al. would become inoperable if the distributed computing environment were removed and replaced with a UDDI server instead.

Additionally, Slaughter et al. does not teach a UDDI server at all. A UDDI server executes specific algorithms and unique APIs in order to provide the above-cited functionality, thus a generic server is not analogous to a UDDI server for the purposes of the claimed invention. The claims have been amended to clarify such distinguishing features. As discussed above, the present amendment is fully supported in the original disclosure. Thus, no new matter has been introduced into the disclosure by way of the present amendment.

Since Slaughter et al. fails to disclose all the elements recited in Independent Claims 1 and 18, Claims 1 and 18 are believed to be patentably distinct over the prior art reference. Claims 2, 4-7, 9-12, 14-19 and 21-23 are dependent from Independent Claims 1 and 18 and thus are limited by the language recited by those independent claims. Accordingly, for at least the reasons

given above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection with respect to Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-12, 14-19 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Slaughter et al. and allowance thereof.

II. Rejection of Claims 3, 8, 13 and 20 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 3, 8, 13 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Slaughter et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,974,406 issued to Bisdikian et al. (hereinafter "Bisdikian et al.").

As discussed above, the teachings of Slaughter et al. do not properly anticipate all of Applicants' claimed elements as recited in Independent Claims 1 and 18.

Bisdikian et al. teaches notification of a user regarding search results upon completion of a search. However, Bisdikian et al. fails to overcome the above-identified deficiencies of Slaughter et al. as applied to Independent Claims 1 and 18, namely Bisdikian fails to teach at least one service provider registering a business service with a UDDI server and storing the same in a database, as recited in Independent Claim 1.

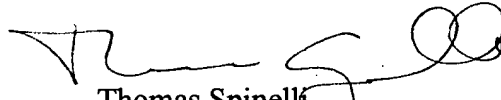
Therefore, Slaughter et al. and Bisdikian et al., taken alone or in any proper combination, fail to disclose or suggest Applicants' invention as recited in Independent Claims 1 and 18. Since Claims 3, 8, 13 and 20 are dependent from Independent Claims 1 and 18; these claims are limited by the language recited by those independent claims. Accordingly, for at least the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection with respect to Claims 3, 8, 13 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Slaughter et al. in view of Bisdikian et al. and allowance thereof.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 1-23 are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call Applicant's undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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